



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/699,375	10/31/2003	Ric Ando	YOR920030337US1	3051
48062 7590 06/11/2007 RYAN, MASON & LEWIS, LLP 1300 POST ROAD SUITE 205 FAIRFIELD, CT 06824			EXAMINER HARPER, V PAUL	
			ART UNIT 2626	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 06/11/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/699,375	Applicant(s) ANDO ET AL.	
	Examiner V. Paul Harper	Art Unit 2626	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 2, 4, 5, 18, 19, 21, 22 and 25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3, 6-17, 20, 23 and 24 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

1. The Examiner has considered the references listed in the Information Disclosure Statement dated 3/3/04. A copy of the Information Disclosure Statement is attached to this office action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 18, 19, 21, 22 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Muresan et al. ("Combining Linguistic and Machine Learning Techniques for Email Summarization" Proceedings of CoNII-2001), hereinafter referred to as Muresan.

Regarding **claim 1**, Muresan teaches techniques for Email summarization.

Muresan's teaching's include:

- determining topicality scores for a plurality of phrasal expressions in the one or more documents (§1, ¶2, "identify topic phrases by first extracting noun phrases"; §2.2 the features used in classification include NPs);

Art Unit: 2626

- determining specificities for the plurality of phrasal expressions (abstract, salient noun phrase extraction; §2.2 importance of the modifiers is taken into consideration; Table 5, wordnet relation which includes salience); and
- determining, by using the topicality scores and specificities, an order for the plurality of phrasal expressions, whereby the order may be used when summarizing the one or more documents (abstract; salient noun phrase extraction; §2.2, calculations are performed).

Regarding **claim 2**, Muresan teaches everything claimed, as applied above (see claim 1). In addition, Muresan teaches “the one or more documents are from a collection of documents” (§4, a collection of e-mails, a corpus).

Regarding **claim 4**, Muresan teaches everything claimed, as applied above (see claim 1). In addition, Muresan teaches “given ones of the plurality of phrasal expressions comprise one or more of following: noun phrases, noun phrases with corresponding prepositional phrases, subject-verb pairs and verb-object pairs” (§2.1, “noun phrases”).

Regarding **claim 5**, Muresan teaches everything claimed, as applied above (see claim 1). In addition, Muresan teaches “the step of determining the phrasal expressions from the one or more documents (§2.1, §4 NPs extracted from e-mail messages).

Art Unit: 2626

Regarding **claim 18**, Muresan techniques for Email summarization. Muresan's teachings include:

- one or more memories; and one or more processors coupled to the one or more memories, the one or more processors configured (this is a machine learning algorithm [§1 introduction] which inherently runs on a process and utilizes memory):
 - to determine topicality scores for a plurality of phrasal expressions in the one or more documents (§1, ¶2, "identify topic phrases by first extracting noun phrases"; §2.2 the features used in classification include NPs);
 - to determine specificities for the plurality of phrasal expressions (abstract, salient noun phrase extraction; §2.2 importance of the modifiers is taken into consideration; Table 5, WordNet relation which includes salience); and
 - to determine, by using the topicality scores and specificities, an order for the plurality of phrasal expressions, whereby the order may be used when summarizing the one or more documents (abstract; salient noun phrase extraction; §2.2, calculations are performed).

Regarding **claim 19**, this claim has limitations similar to claim 2 and is rejected for the same reasons.

Regarding **claim 21**, this claim has limitations similar to claim 4 and is rejected for the same reasons.

Art Unit: 2626

Regarding **claim 22**, this claim has limitations similar to claim 5 and is rejected for the same reasons.

Regarding **claim 25**, this claim has limitations similar to claims 1 and 18 and is rejected for the same reasons.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 3, 6-17, 20, 23, and 24 objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Citation of Pertinent Art

4. The following prior art made of record but not relied upon is considered pertinent to the applicant's disclosure:

- Boguraev et al. (US Patent 6,865,572) teach document encapsulation with a plurality of capsule overviews with topic stamp.
- Gong et al. (US Patent Application Publication 2002/0138528) discloses text summarization using relevance measure and latent semantic analysis.
- Fleischman et al. ("Fine Grained Classification of Named Entities" Coling 2002.) discusses the classification of named entities using WordNet Features.

Art Unit: 2626

- Goldstein et al. ("Summarizing Text Documents: Sentence Selection and Evaluation Metrics" SIGIR 1999) describes text-span extraction using a methodology that assigns weighted scores for both statistical and linguistic features.
- White et al. ("Multidocument Summarization via Information Extraction" In the proceedings of the First International Conference on Human Language Technology Research, 2001, San Diego, CA) teaches summarization where specificity is determined.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to V. Paul Harper whose telephone number is (571) 272-7605. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patrick Edouard can be reached on (571) 272-7603. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2626

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

6/1/2007

VPH

V. PAUL HARPER
PRIMARY PATENT EXAMINER

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "V. Paul Harper". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the printed name and title.